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10 August 1959

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Communist bloc - Cyprus: The USSR and Communist China have made informal offers to a cultural delegation from Cyprus to give the Republic of Cyprus economic aid when it achieves independence early next year. Khrushchev recently told the delegation, which has returned from visits to Moscow and Peiping, that this aid would be "without strings" and similar to the USSR's economic assistance for the UAR.

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III. THE WEST

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No Britain: [Pressures in Britain for an early four-power East-West summit meeting have subsided following announcement of the Eisenhower-Khrushchev exchange. The US Embassy in London, however, expects Prime Minister Macmillan to revive the issue as the time approaches for general elections, probably this fall. Even after the elections British public opinion and Macmillan's personal conviction can be expected to keep the issue alive.]

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No Cuba: The Castro government is reported to have arrested several hundred military personnel and taken other extensive security measures following the reported discovery of an army plot at Camp Liberty near Havana. It is not clear, however, whether the government is in full control of the military establishment on the Isle of Pines, where press reports say insurgents took control of communications. Raul Castro emphatically denied reports of any landings from abroad.

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DAILY BRIEF

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III. THE WEST

British Pressures for East-West Summit Meeting

Expected to Resume

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[While announcement of the approaching Eisenhower-Khrushchev exchange of visits has eased pressures in Britain for an early four-power East-West summit meeting, Prime Minister Macmillan may be expected to revive the issue as the expected autumn general elections draw nearer. The American Embassy in London believes Macmillan would prefer to have a firm date agreed to and announced before the elections to avoid a strong opposition attack during the campaign.]

[Regardless of the election factor, the British public seems likely to continue fascinated with the possibility of a summit conference. A Gallup poll taken in late July registered 75 percent in favor of such a meeting, with only 5 percent opposed and 20 percent undecided. The British press widely predicts that the Eisenhower-Khrushchev exchange will advance the prospects for a formal summit meeting. Macmillan's own public statement welcoming the visits assumed such a meeting would be held. The embassy comments that, besides Macmillan's interest in the issue for election purposes, he probably sincerely believes in the "summit idea" and therefore may be expected to continue to press it even after the election is out of the way.]

[In contrast to some Continental reaction, especially in France, there has appeared virtually no indication of British distrust or any feeling that the United States might use the talks with Khrushchev to negotiate behind Britain's back. Opposition leader Gaitskell, while noting that Labor's "shadow" foreign secretary, Aneurin Bevan, had privately raised such a question, told the embassy that few Labor supporters would share Bevan's doubts.]

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